

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
27-28 May 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Overseas travel entitlements – Office of the Prime Minister

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** F95

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

With reference to the Expenditure on Entitlements Paid by the Department of Finance for the Hon Tony Abbott MP Final Report from 1 Jan to 30 June 2014.

1. In relation to overseas travel expenditure amounting to \$120,309.22 for the Prime Minister to attend the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on a ministerial visit.
  - a) Please itemise this expenditure.
  - b) How many personal employees travelled in advance of the Prime Minister?
  - c) How many personal and departmental employees accompanied the Prime Minister and what was their classification?
  - d) Please itemise expenditure amounting to \$43,694.63 spent on accommodation and meals –
    - i. Please itemise this expenditure.
    - ii. Was an amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on official hospitality and dining at restaurants and how many times did this occur?
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?
    - iv. If so, please provide the relevant guest lists for official hospitality.
  - e) In relation to 'OS Ministerial – Related Travel Expenses' amounting to \$20,426.65.
    - i. What is the usual nature of this expenditure?
    - ii. Please itemise this expenditure.
2. In relation to the expenditure amounting to \$219,857.04 for the Prime Minister's official travel to Japan, Republic of Korea and China on a ministerial visit.
  - a) What was the purpose of these ministerial visits?
  - b) How many personal staff travelled in advance of the Prime Minister and accompanied the Prime Minister and what was their classification?
  - c) Please itemise expenditure amounting to \$56, 881.13 spent on accommodation and meals.
    - i. What amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on official hospitality?
    - ii. Please provide in itemised form: the location, relevant guest lists and the amount spent.
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?

- d) In relation to 'OS Ministerial – Related Travel Expenses' amounting to \$51,813.18.
    - i. What is the usual nature of this expenditure? Please define.
    - ii. Please itemise this expenditure.
  - e) In relation to 'Official Hospitality non Portfolio related' amounting to \$58,803.98.
    - i. What does the Department mean by non-portfolio related and what type of official hospitality does this include?
    - ii. Please provide in itemised form: the location, relevant guest lists and the amount spent.
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?
3. In relation to the expenditure amounting to \$42,039.98 or the Prime Minister's official travel to Indonesia, France, Canada and the USA.
- a) What was the purpose of these ministerial visits?
  - b) How many personal staff travelled in advance of the Prime Minister and accompanied the Prime Minister and what was their classification?
  - c) Please itemise expenditure amounting to \$13,368.98 spent on accommodation and meals.
    - i. What amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on official hospitality?
    - ii. Please provide in itemised form: the location, relevant guest lists and the amount spent.
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?
  - d) In relation to 'OS Ministerial – Related Travel Expenses' amounting to \$4,893.50.
    - i. What is the usual nature of this expenditure? Please define.
    - ii. Please itemise this expenditure.
  - e) In relation to 'Official Hospitality non Portfolio related' amounting to \$4,592.17.
    - i. What does the Department mean by non-portfolio related and what type of official hospitality does this include? Please define.
    - ii. Please provide in itemised form: the location, relevant guest lists and the amount spent.
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?
4. Please itemise all, ministerial and personal employee overseas travel from 30 June 2014 to Budget Estimates with the location and country, date, total amount spent and the purpose of the travel.
5. Pursuant to question 4, please provide the following supplementary information.
- a) How much was spent on accommodation and meals?
  - b) How many personal staff travelled in advance of the Prime Minister and accompanied the Prime Minister and what was their classification?
  - c) How much was spent on accommodation and meals.
    - i. Please itemise this expenditure.
    - ii. What amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on hospitality, dining at restaurants or hotels and how many times did this occur?
    - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what type?
    - iv. If so, please provide the relevant guest lists.
    - v. Please detail according to each travel item pursuant to question 4, how much was spent on official hospitality?

**Answer:**

1.
  - a) To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
  - b) One.
  - c) Six personal employees accompanied the then Prime Minister, with classifications ranging from Adviser to Principal Adviser. Finance does not report on or pay for costs for employees from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
  - d)
    - i. – iii. Refer to part 1 a).
    - iv. The department does not hold this information.
  - e)
    - i. These costs relate to the purchase and hire of office equipment and other miscellaneous expenses.
    - ii. Refer to part 1 a).
2.
  - a) Refer to part 1 d), iv.
  - b) Three personal staff travelled in advance of the then Prime Minister, with classifications ranging from Assistant Adviser to Senior Adviser. Ten personal staff accompanied the Prime Minister, with classifications ranging from Assistant Adviser to Principal Adviser.
  - c)
    - i. Refer to part 1 a).
    - ii. Refer to part 1 d), iv.
    - iii. Personal staff travel entitlement does not cover the cost of alcohol.
  - d)
    - i. Refer to part 1 e), i.
    - ii. Refer to part 1 a).
  - e)
    - i. These costs are not met by portfolio departments and are for covering the costs of official gifts and hospitality hosted by the Prime Minister.
    - ii. Refer to part 1 d), iv.
    - iii. Refer to part 2 c), iii.
3.
  - a) Refer to part 1 d), iv.
  - b) Four staff travelled in advance of the then Prime Minister, with classifications with classifications ranging from Assistant Adviser to Senior Adviser. Nine staff travelled with the then Prime Minister, with classifications ranging from Assistant Adviser to Principal Adviser.
  - c) Refer to part 1 a).
    - i. Refer to part 1 a).
    - ii. Refer to part 1 d), iv.
    - iii. Refer to part 2 c), iii.
  - d)
    - i. Refer to part 1 e), i.
    - ii. Refer to part 1 a).
  - e)
    - i. Refer to part 2 e), i.
    - ii. Refer to part 1 a).
    - iii. Refer to part 2 c), iii.
4. – 5. Refer to part 1 a).